

NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN



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IN DEFENSE OF the Conservation of the National Parks System
IN PROMOTION OF a National Recreation Policy which shall Mobilize the Resources of the Nation and the States, and
IN THE INTEREST OF Thousands of Organizations and Millions of Americans working together for these ends

ROBERT STERLING YARD, Editor

U. S. Department of Agriculture

NATIONAL RECREATION ENTHUSIASTICALLY PLANNED

Conference Called by the President to Advise Him on Recreation Formulates Broad Inclusive Policy, and Creates Permanent Advisory Council to Unite Popular Organizations the Country Over in Closer Cooperation

A PRACTICAL beginning toward complete cooperation for the broadest and most beneficent use of out-of-doors America was made at the National Outdoor Recreation Conference in Washington on May 22, 23 and 24 last.

Delegates of 128 National organizations of many kinds, social, religious, educational, scientific, and conservational, hailing from the Atlantic to the Pacific, assembled at the invitation of the President of the United States, formulated without government participation their own policy covering all recreational functioning, including uses of land and wild life conservation, and effected permanent organization.

The form of organization begun by the President and completed by the Conference is simple and democratic.

On the Part of the National Government

Representing the administrative arm of the Government is the President's Committee on National Outdoor Recreation, appointed April 14, which consists of the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, War, Commerce and Labor, and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Its function is to determine an Administration policy concerning the recreational and conservational uses of nationally owned lands, and to serve as a medium of communication between the people and the Administration as a whole. But it possesses and will attempt to use no power, and will assume none of the duties and responsibilities of the people, who will continue, through their own organizations, to appeal directly to Congress in matters concerning law.

The President's Committee, then, will not alter existing relationships, but, by insuring the cooperation of the various departments of the administrative branch of the Federal Government, it will help powerfully in bringing both branches in accord with the popular will.

On the Part of the People

Representing the people is the Advisory Council of a hundred elected at the recent Recreational Conference to serve between conferences, with an Executive Committee elected at the same time to serve between meetings of the Advisory Council.

It will consider national out-door recreation in its broadest practical aspects, including its social significance to

child life, health, education and character building, and its application to national, state, county and city park development, and to wild life conservation.

The personnel of the Executive Committee is:

Chauncey J. Hamlin, New York, Chairman,
Dr. John C. Merriam, California, Vice-Chairman,
Dr. George E. Scott, Illinois, Treasurer and Chairman Finance Committee,
Dr. Vernon Kellogg, California, Secretary,
Walter F. Martin, Washington, D. C.,
John Barton Payne, Illinois,
Mrs. Jane Deeter Rippin, New York,
Charles Sheldon, Washington, D. C.,
Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, Colorado,
George Shiras, 3d, Michigan,
James E. West, New York.

The personnel represents the widest practicable range of recreational functionings. In no sense does it represent individual groups or organizations.

The Associations

The Council, as represented by its Executive Committee, will assume no power. It will remain precisely what its name, Council, indicates, a community of public opinion, policy and cooperation. To these ends it will organize and plan the work.

Initiative and action, defensive and constructive, will rest as in the past wholly in organizations of the people. In fact, the work of thousands of public-spirited organizations will proceed without change of direction or method. The responsibilities of these organizations will not be lessened, nor must their initiative be slowed.

The differences will be that hereafter all will be drawn into closer harmony of effort, that all will gradually acquire definite relations in a broad planning to correlate the work of all in one great whole, and that, through the Advisory Council, they will have access to the National Administration as a whole instead of to Government Departments singly as in the past.

National Planning Begun

Immediately upon the close of the Conference on May 24, the Executive Committee began a series of meetings

to determine scope and initial policy, and plan for a basic survey of the entire field of recreational opportunity. Its first statement, issued May 30, follows:

"The Advisory Council of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation believes that it is not its function to take over the exploitation of any part of the field of outdoor recreation, but rather to support, endorse and seek assistance from the various national organizations already at work in this field.

"Pursuant to this policy, announcement is made that, by resolutions duly adopted, the following national organizations have been requested to undertake certain fact-finding surveys which appear to the Committee as fundamental to any carefully formulated National Plan for Outdoor Recreation.

"The Playground and Recreation Association of America has been requested to undertake a survey of county and municipal parks, forests, playgrounds, waters and other reservations.

"The National Conference on State Parks has been requested to undertake a survey of state parks, waters, forests and other reservations.

"A New Recreational Empire"

"The American Forestry Association and the National Parks Association have been requested to appoint a joint committee to undertake a joint survey through their organizations of the federal parks, forests, reservations and other public lands and waters.

"The American Association of Museums has been requested to undertake a survey of the contributions that can be made by the natural history museums of the country in the field of outdoor recreation and conservation through teaching an understanding and love of nature.

"It is the intention of the Advisory Council to request other national organizations to make similar surveys in the field of the social significance of outdoor recreation in its relation to child life, health, industrial workers, rural recreation needs, athletic games and sports, etc., and also in the field of the value of natural resources to outdoor recreation with particular reference to forests, game and fur-bearing animals, fish, birds, plants, flowers, waters, etc.

"It is believed that through the close cooperation of such private agencies and government agencies, federal, state, county and municipal, it will be possible eventually to evolve a National Plan for Outdoor Recreation in which each agency, public and private, will have and play its part to the end that our country will be a happier, pleasanter and healthier place in which to live."

The organization inaugurated at the National Outdoor Recreation Conference is thus seen as an adventure in cooperation on a great scale with an objective of incalculable value to the nation. Its success will depend wholly upon the support it receives from the working organizations which inaugurated and shaped it, and whose untiring labors for the common good it is its purpose to assist.

NO SUMMER CATTLE IN YOSEMITE

Secretary Work has denied an application made by cattlemen's organizations in California to use Yosemite National Park for grazing during the present dry summer. The State Parks Conference made an important protest to the President through its Chairman, John Barton Payne, and many organizations also protested on the ground that such use would violate the national policy of complete conservation for National Parks.

OUR OWN ENLARGED DUTIES

To Help Survey for a Recreational Program Enormous Areas of Publicly-Owned Lands

THE special duty which the Advisory Council of the National Outdoor Recreation Conference has assigned to the American Forestry Association and the National Parks Association has basic importance. The survey of recreational opportunities in "the Federal parks, forests, reservations and other public lands and waters" involves a review of 700,000 square miles outside of Alaska, including National Parks, National Forests, Reclamation projects, Indian reservations, the unapportioned and unallotted lands known as the Public Domain, and various lands under lesser classification.

Of these, only 12,000 square miles of National Parks are organized for recreation.

The Nation's Great Opportunity

In the 284,531 square miles of National Forest there now exists only one camping ground for each 190 square miles. In the 290,521 square miles of the Public Domain, together with all other nationally-owned lands summing 125,000 square miles more, there is no national recreational development whatever.

Yet in this vast area, which is greater than the New England States, the Middle States to the Mississippi, and the Southern States including the Carolinas and Tennessee, the undeveloped opportunities are nothing less than enormous. It includes the greater part of the Rockies, the Cascades and the Sierra, the best of the Appalachians, and immense intermediate areas of forest, plain and desert. Its river systems and innumerable lakes include many of the most beautiful in the world. Scenically, even excluding our incomparable National Parks, it far outranks the possessions of any other Nation, both in variety of landscape forms, and in features of grandeur and beauty.

Recreationally, it is an empire of inspiring promise which new highways, new park classifications and innumerable camping grounds will make accessible and enjoyable to many millions of nature lovers for all time.

The National Parks Association's Mission

This important assignment is not a division of the immense field between two associations specializing in separate parts of it, but a partnership of specialists to cover the whole as an entity. Bound together by years of common sympathy, interest and friendship, the American Forestry Association and the National Parks Association will work together as one.

This additional work in common will not, however, divert either association from its normal functions.

The National Parks Association will continue unflinchingly to defend the conservation of the National Parks System from attack and promote its educational use.

It will continue to preach nature conservation throughout the continent.

It will continue to concentrate public opinion behind the promotions of sister organizations for wild birds and wild animal refuges and the better protection of American species, forest and wild flower, bird and quadruped, in natural environment.

It will continue its mission of cooperative union among popular organizations of every kind the continent over for these great purposes.

HOW NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT

Inevitable Result of Many Separate Popular Movements, Gathering Strength during Years and Converging Rapidly toward Cooperative Union

THAT the time was approaching when it would become practicable to bring into closer harmony of action the many separate and grouped movements toward the study of nature, wild life conservation and out-of-door pleasuring has been evident for several years to many who have long been working earnestly toward these ends, especially in the field of nature conservation.

Powerful groupings of organizations working for the better protection of native birds, wild animals and wild flowers, for the protection of National Parks conservation, for the more rapid development of State Parks and for nature study in the public schools have sought community of interest and have been rapidly finding it.

In similar manner, organizations concerned in many important social aspects of recreation have been approaching each other.

Scientific societies have become profoundly interested in all of these groupings. State and National Governments have met the trend of the times, establishing conservation departments and enacting laws in accord with the clear demand of popular thinking.

Opportunity and the Men

That all of these movements, popular and governmental, must presently unite in fully organized cooperation has been talked about among students of the times, but few if any judged that so close a coordination was yet possible as that which developed so swiftly at President Coolidge's recreation conference at the end of May. The spirit, the speed and completeness of the union of interest there begun is proof of the universality and self-consciousness of the national need.

The men through whom progress so suddenly, when the time was fully ripe, combined these separate currents into a single powerful stream were Charles Sheldon, of Washington, D. C., and Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, now Assistant Secretary of the Navy. For years Mr. Sheldon had been an earnest student and laborer in the cause of wild-life conservation. Colonel Roosevelt, with the enthusiasm of conviction and opportunity, and a promptness and efficiency reminiscent of his famous father, promoted the necessary human machinery and set it into powerful action. The President's Committee on National Outdoor Recreation was created in April with President Coolidge's hearty sympathy, and Colonel Roosevelt then effected popular organization on a national scale.

The Working Committees

As members of the major committee the President appointed Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work, in charge of the National Parks, the Public Domain, the Reclamation projects and the Indian reservations; Secretary of Agriculture Henry C. Wallace, in charge of the National Forests and bird and animal sanctuaries; Secretary of War John W. Weeks, author of the Weeks Act for forest preservation in the Appalachians, and head of the National Military Parks; Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover; Secretary of Labor James J. Davis, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt. Colonel Roosevelt was appointed Executive Chairman.

The President's Committee decided to formulate a na-

tional recreational out-door policy, and, to this end, to call an advisory conference of the people. To effect this, Colonel Roosevelt appointed an assisting committee consisting of Arno B. Cammerer representing the Interior Department, L. F. Kneipp representing the Agricultural Department, Lieutenant Colonel W. C. Johnson representing the War Department, Captain Arthur P. Fairfield representing the Navy Department, Henry O'Malley representing the Department of Commerce, Miss Grace Abbott representing the Department of Labor, Charles Sheldon and Robert Sterling Yard. The rest followed in course.

A Conference that Makes History

The response from the country and the press to the President's invitation was immediate and hearty. The conference was seen to be certain of pronounced success a week before it assembled.

A large gathering which, on the morning of May 22, crowded the auditorium of the National Museum to the doors, including delegates from 128 national organizations, applauded the addresses of President Coolidge and Chairman Roosevelt, sang America zestfully, and settled down to business with the results elsewhere reported in this Bulletin.

The conference worked with clock-like precision. Eighteen committees, carefully chosen in advance so as to bring the best minds together on every side of each aspect of recreation to be considered, reported to a general Committee on Resolutions; and a Committee on Permanent Organization, chosen with equal care gathered opinion industriously throughout the sessions. Meantime papers bearing upon many phases of the subject were being read and discussed at the public sessions, over which Colonel Roosevelt presided.

With the passage of the general resolutions and the creation of a permanent Advisory Committee at the final session, a conference closed which had begun a new era in our national life.

STATE PARK CONFERENCE

Fourth Annual Conference Held at Gettysburg by Far the Most Successful of Them All

THE Fourth Annual State Park Conference, held at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on May 26, 27 and 28, was the most enthusiastic and the most widely attended of the series. An increased number of States were represented, and reports showed progress in park making and park development during the past year.

The distinctive note was cooperation between States, and with the National Outdoor Recreation organization established the week before at the President's conference in Washington.

Officers elected for the next year were John Barton Payne, Chairman; Stephen T. Mather, Vice Chairman, and Beatrice M. Ward, Secretary and Treasurer. The new executive committee consists of Dr. H. C. Cowles, Illinois; Herbert Evison, Washington; Dr. L. H. Pammel, Iowa; W. H. Stinchcomb, Ohio; Albert M. Turner, Connecticut; Major W. A. Welsh, New York; and Theodore Wirth, Minnesota.

CONFERENCE ADOPTS NATIONAL OUTDOOR CREED

Report of Resolutions Committee Settles Controversies and Announces a Ringing Declaration of Principles and Objectives

EIGHTEEN committees in separate session during the first two days of the Conference discussed as many aspects of outdoor recreation and submitted their reports to the Committee on Resolutions, of which Charles Sheldon was chairman. The following report was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted at the final session of the Conference:

Citizenship Values

I.

Resolved, that outdoor recreation furnishes opportunity to gain abounding health, strength, wholesome enjoyment, understanding and love of nature, good-fellowship and keen sportsmanship and, above all, has a direct beneficial influence on the formation of sturdy character by developing those qualities of self-control, endurance under hardship, reliance on self, and cooperation with others in team work which are so necessary to good citizenship.

Federal Land Policy

II.

Whereas, it seems desirable to express the opinion of the Conference regarding the primary functions of the two major governmental agencies naturally touching the field of recreation, namely, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service, be it

Resolved, 1. That the Conference express its approval of the historic and popular belief that the National Parks System consists of permanent national reservations protecting inviolate those wonderful or unique areas of our country which are museums representing the scenery and principal natural features of the United States available in our great heritage of animate and inanimate nature;

2. That these Parks must be protected completely from all economic use; that their scenic qualities should represent features of national importance as distinguished from those of sectional or local significance, and that they must be preserved in a condition of unmodified nature;

3. That laws should be provided which will furnish an administration as nearly uniform as possible throughout the National Parks System;

4. That the Conference express its approval of the statement that National Forests are areas set aside to protect and maintain in a permanently productive or useful condition lands unsuited to agriculture but capable of yielding timber or other general public benefits; and that all resources of National Forests, including recreation, should be developed to the greatest possible extent consistent with permanent productivity in such a way as to insure the highest use of all parts of the area involved;

5. That the Conference respectfully calls to the attention of the President's Committee the fact that recreation in the National Forests may be better served by such adjustment of both state and federal laws and of responsibility for their execution that the Forest Service can administer effectively the wild life of the forests, and protect isolated gems of scenery such as may naturally fall within the forests.

And Whereas, in the judgment of this Conference valuable recreational resources in the public domain are rapidly being lost to public use; therefore be it

6. *Resolved*, That the attention of the Federal Government be called to the need of a careful survey of all available resources of the publicly owned lands in order that

we may secure adequate information regarding recreational facilities of such areas;

7. That the Federal Government be requested to give consideration to the administration of such areas of publicly owned lands as are found to have special importance by reason of their availability for recreational purposes;

8. That the President's Conference respectfully call to the attention of the Federal Government the fact that in determining the administration of recreational areas on publicly owned lands it is desirable to recognize the possibility of transfer of such lands to the National Park Service, the Forest Service, or to the states concerned, provided the specific areas fit themselves properly to the use of these agencies; and

9. That the Conference recognize the desirability of setting up a continuing body, perhaps of the Commission form, centered as now in the President's Cabinet, and having as its function the investigation of problems of Federal land policy so far as they relate to recreation, and the consideration of measures to secure in practice that continuity and harmony of policy in the administration of Federal lands for recreational purposes which is the desire of all the interests concerned.

State Parks and Forests

III.

1. We urge upon our governments, local, county, state and national, the acquisition of land and water areas suitable for recreation and preservation of wild life as a form of the conservation of our natural resources, until eventually there shall be public parks, forests and preserves within easy access of all the people of our nation, and also to encourage the interest of non-governmental agencies and individuals in acquiring, maintaining and dedicating for public use similar areas; and

2. The enactment of legislation, including adequate appropriations, and the adoption of policies which will insure cooperation between the Federal Government and the States, and will promote the practice of forestry in its broadest sense and make the growing of timber by the private land owners safe and profitable.

Survey and Classification of Recreation Resources

IV.

1. That there should be a complete and comprehensive survey and classification of all recreational facilities and resources, both public and private, for the entire country;

2. That in the development of public reservations of recreational importance adequate systems of roads and trails connecting these reservations be provided.

Plants and Flowers

V.

1. That we recognize that the education of school children and popular education through the press and other publications, and through churches, colleges, and in other ways, offer the surest means of protecting wild plants and flowers; and we heartily commend the work of

volunteer organizations which have already exerted much influence and proved the effectiveness of popular education;

2. That every city and town should possess, as part of the nature study equipment of the public schools, and for public recreation, a wild park in which the native vegetation is absolutely protected;

3. That laws to uphold private owners in the protection of such plants as dogwood, mountain-laurel, holly and other valuable native vegetation should be enacted by all the states; and

4. That we recognize the great need of a National Arboretum and Botanical Park and we urge that in this institution, when established, special consideration be given to the protection of our native plants and to the development of an adequate knowledge of their care and propagation for public education and recreation.

Birds

VI.

1. That the greatest problem in connection with wild bird conservation today is the provision of an effective system of education on a scale greater than any hitherto attempted and enlisting the assistance of all available agencies, including the press, the screen, and the radio;

2. That the principal practical problems of the immediate future are better endorsement of existing laws, strengthening the statutes in certain states and constant watchfulness against loss of ground already won;

3. That the importance should be emphasized, in the administration of bird laws, of basic surveys and inventories, of consideration of local conditions in the regulation of bag limits, of sanctuaries in connection with all public shooting grounds, and of expert personnel.

Game and Fur Bearing Animals

VII.

1. That effort should be continued for the preservation of game animals through propagation, refuges, public shooting grounds, prevention of destructive practices, non-sale regulations, bag limits, licensing systems, special funds and other methods;

2. That special emphasis should be laid upon improvement and development of methods through non-political state game commissions with trained personnel, long tenure of service and broad administrative power; through conservation and reclamation of natural breeding or feeding grounds; through statistical surveys; and through efforts to obtain greater cooperation between state and private organizations interested in game; and

3. That campaigns of extermination against predatory animals should be discouraged, except as authorized by experts under State or Federal control.

4. *Whereas*, the efficient administration of wild life depends upon a detailed and accurate knowledge of the animals concerned;

Resolved, That all sportsmen should cooperate with museums or other scientific institutions and, so far as possible, make the results of their hunting available for study, research and permanent record.

5. *Whereas*, the decrease of hunting grounds, the rapid increase of hunters, liberal killing privileges and other destructive influences are now operating to diminish and exterminate game birds, animals and fishes;

Resolved, That steps should be taken promptly to secure reductions in bag limits and open seasons which will

reduce the annual volume of game killing, both migratory and non-migratory, by large amounts where necessary; and

6. That the wild life on unreserved public lands should be administered where possible by the Federal Biological Survey.

Fish

VIII.

Whereas, Fisheries and aquatic resources are of very great importance as a source of food supply and as a means of providing health-giving recreation to all classes of citizenry; and

Whereas, these aquatic resources have been dangerously depleted and are further threatened by stream pollution; therefore, be it resolved:

1. That scientific investigation furnishing a sound basis for the administration of all fishery resources be further encouraged by Federal, State and private agencies;

2. That propagation, stocking and rescue operations in public and private waters be greatly encouraged and enlarged;

3. That legislation is urgently needed, especially with respect to the uniformity of state laws, boundary waters, and anadromous fishes, such as salmon, striped bass, shad and sturgeon;

4. That Federal legislation should be secured stopping the interstate sale and shipment of black bass; and

5. That recognition should be taken of the fact that Federal and State appropriations for fisheries work have not kept pace with the growing needs of the country.

Pollution and Drainage

IX.

Whereas, increasing industrial expansion results in the exceedingly dangerous and destructive pollution of rivers and coastal waters, thereby rendering them uninhabitable to aquatic life of all useful kinds, seriously impairing shore bathing, and materially restricting possibilities for recreation through the accumulation of oily wastes; and

Whereas, the menace from fire hazard from floating oily wastes extends beyond the control of the nation and involves also the high seas; be it

Resolved, That solution of the problem must be sought first, by educating public opinion to bring about cooperation of all corrective influences; second, by securing detailed information concerning the extent, sources and nature of pollution; third, by encouraging technical investigation of exact conditions and means for transforming noxious into harmless substances; and fourth, by securing the adoption of corrective measures by National and State authorities; and

Whereas, the United States possess 80,000,000 acres of swamp and overflowed land important for equalizing stream run-off by holding rainfall, and in many instances serving as the breeding grounds of fish and wild life; be it

Resolved, That indiscriminate drainage is to be deplored as a source of conspicuous waste, and that careful investigation should be made in advance of all drainage operations to determine resultant benefits and injuries.

International Relationships

X.

1. That the Federal authorities be requested to enter into negotiations with nations constituting the Pan-American Association and others adjacent to the United States looking toward the formulation of conventions to protect migra-

tory wild fowl and insectivorous birds whose habitat exists jointly in these countries and the United States; and

2. That we recognize the value of international athletic competitions as a means of promoting ideals of sportsmanship, mutual understanding, and respect among nations, and that we appeal to all government, civic and voluntary agencies for encouragement and support of the representatives of our country in these international competitions;

3. That the Consular Service be asked to effect exchange of information with foreign countries concerning governmental and municipal experience in developing physical training, playgrounds and outdoor recreation; and

4. That, in American institutions offering courses in recreation, special provisions be made for foreigners wanting to study American methods for use in their home countries.

Financial Encouragement of Outdoor Recreation

XI.

That the matter of financing the Outdoor Recreation Movement be referred to the Permanent Organization which it is hoped will succeed this Conference.

Value of Outdoor Recreation to Industrial Workers

XII.

1. That the President's Conference should emphasize the benefits which accrue from the provision of permanent outdoor recreation facilities within the reach of industrial workers and their families;

2. That the Conference should urge industries and mercantile establishments to provide, as opportunity offers, additional facilities for organized games; and to support municipal provision of wholesome outdoor recreational facilities;

3. That the Conference should call attention to the fact that activities of this kind require just as much thought, care, planning and supervision as any other phase of business, and that good intentions not founded upon knowledge, not guided by experience and training, have led to disappointment and failure in the past, as they have in operating departments; and

4. That the Conference call attention to the value for agricultural workers of all types of informal recreation and organized games which develop team play, quickness and bodily skill, and to the value for city dwellers, especially those of mature years, of such recreations as fishing, hunting, boating and camping, which involve a complete change of environment.

Municipal Parks and Playgrounds

XIII.

That in view of the massing of our population in cities and towns, which, so far as foreseeable will increasingly continue, and in view of the helplessness of children and youths to determine their own environment, and admitting their inherent right to a place in which to play, the Conference recognizes that it is the duty of every community to provide and operate either by public or private means, adequate space for play and recreation and that at least ten per cent of the area of a community should be regarded as the minimum requirement for this purpose, so distributed as to give all sections, as nearly as may be, equal accommodation both as to location and area;

And to this end in new city additions of ten acres or more

this provision should be made a condition of such additions' acceptance by the municipalities;

And recognizing further that recreation, aside from its pleasure-giving object, is an important element in fostering good citizenship, it is the duty of the community to furnish on its playgrounds organized recreation under executive leadership of high character; and

That the President's Conference on Outdoor Recreation looks with approval on those agencies and institutions seeking to give specialized professional training to workers in the various fields of recreation.

Educational Program

XIV.

1. That the Conference endorse Nature Study in schools and the extension of the Nature Study idea to every American school and family;

2. That provision be made in the curricula of all Normal Schools and Colleges for the training of the necessary teachers and leaders in Nature Study; and

3. That the establishment of Museums of Natural History in National Parks will increase the educational and recreational value of the Parks.

Outdoor Recreational Needs of Children

XV.

1. That the Conference believes that the basic recreational needs of all children are the same and urges the value of a statement of average outdoor standards for children based on a thorough study; that such a statement will serve as a minimum which may be freely exceeded, but which we shall first endeavor to make universal;

2. That in view of the fact that 400 cities and towns of 8,000 or more are reported not to have a single playground or play leader, the Conference urges that these communities and all others take up the study of the outdoor recreation needs of their children, with the purpose of immediate action;

3. That the recreation needs of the country's 15,000,000 rural children should be studied and provided for in connection with the schools and in cooperation with agencies promoting helpful social activities as a means of enriching country life and counteracting the lure of the city;

4. That the Conference urges the basic importance of training leaders for recreational activities; it also calls attention to the need of recreation institutes with traveling instructors;

5. That the growth of our cities and communities has been such that inadequate provision has been made for the recreational needs of their people, and land within the corporation limits of such communities is costly; very definite cooperation should be sought with cities, towns and rural communities looking towards the acquisition by gift, or purchase by public funds, of tracts of land generally unsuited for cultivation but well adapted for outdoor recreation, within reasonable distance from the centers of said cities, towns or communities, with the object of developing such areas as may be selected for general recreational centers open to all citizens and their families under regulations to be determined by said cities and communities; and

6. That commercial housing enterprises be urged to consider the setting aside of a certain proportion of land for the purpose of meeting the needs of the children for small interior playgrounds.

WORK REPORTS AGAINST YELLOWSTONE DAM BILL

The Third Consecutive National Administration Opposes Senator Walsh's Persistently Urged Project to Industrialize Yellowstone National Park

UNDER date of May 23, Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work reported to the Senate Committee on Irrigation adversely to Senator Thomas J. Walsh's latest bill (S. 311) for authority to dam Yellowstone Lake in the center of Yellowstone National Park. Senator Walsh's persistent attempts during four years to violate the conservation of Yellowstone National Park for alleged benefits to irrigation and flood control which the Interior Department has proved to be futile, have thus met another reverse.

But if history proves anything, Senator Walsh will still persist. His bills (this is his third) have had the opposition of three administrations, President Wilson's, President Harding's and President Coolidge's. President Harding personally promised publicly that Yellowstone National Park should be protected. Secretary of the Interior Payne appeared before the Senate Committee against the first of the Walsh series. Secretary of the Interior Work is now on record against the last.

All Opposed Except Fall

Secretary Fall alone favored the Walsh project, and that only in a qualified manner. If a special survey should show that a dam was "necessary," Secretary Fall permitted the inference that he would favor it. But three administrations have declined to make the survey, and Senator Walsh has twice failed to raise the money in his own State to pay for it.

Furthermore, the vast majority of his State's sentiment, especially in the districts alleged to be benefited, is against any dam in Yellowstone National Park. Furthermore, his own hand-picked Committee (the bills belong in the Public Lands Committee) have persistently, through four years, refused favorable reports.

Nevertheless, incomprehensively, Senator Walsh persists. He even has two bills before the present Congress, one to authorize the dam and one to pay for a survey, and these doubtless he will push hard in the after-election session.

The Missing Water Power Clause

All these bills have been practically identical except the present bill, out of which he has dropped the water power clause which occurred in its predecessors. That clause provided that "revenues" derived from the "development of hydroelectric energy" should pass to the benefit of "the irrigation district assuming the charge for the construction of said dam."

This always seemed, however, an unnecessary clause because those supplying the heavy capital for works sufficient to produce water power would necessarily enjoy the profits of their enterprise and investment.

Secretary Work's report against the present Yellowstone Dam Bill is an able statement of national policy:

Text of Secretary Work's Report

Hon. Charles L. McNary,
Chairman, Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation,
United States Senate.

My dear Senator McNary:

I have your request of December 31 last for a report

on S. 311, 68th Congress, first Session, a bill for the erection and maintenance of a regulating weir across the Yellowstone River in the State of Montana.

The primary purpose of this bill is to dam and control the waters of Lake Yellowstone so they could be used in connection with irrigation of lands in the Yellowstone Valley outside the boundaries of that park.

When the Yellowstone National Park, the first member of our world-famous system of national parks, was erected by act of March 1, 1872, Congress specifically reserved and withdrew the area from "settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States", and dedicated and set it apart "as a public park and pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." The act also prescribed that all persons who locate, or settle upon, or occupy any part of the land thus set apart as a public park, except such as may be considered necessary to render service to the traveling public, should be considered trespassers and removed therefrom, and furthermore that the Secretary of the Interior should make and publish regulations that shall provide for the "preservation, from injury or spoliation of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities or wonders within the park, and their retention in their natural conditions."

Absolute Preservation the Unwavering Policy

It is probably inevitable that settlement and development of areas adjacent to and surrounding the Yellowstone will carry with them impulses to utilize natural resources of the park for local benefit. This may then extend not only into the utilization of lakes and streams for water power and irrigation purposes, but also to lumbering and other industries. However, absolute preservation should be the unwavering policy of Yellowstone administration, for, inestimably valuable and precious as this great park now is to the Nation, it will prove of increasingly greater value with each passing year as the common heritage of coming generations.

The intent of Congress in all legislation affecting the Yellowstone has been to keep this splendid wilderness area intact in its natural state untouched for all time by the inroads of modern civilization, and fifty years of administration have served only to emphasize the importance of such a consistent policy of protection.

Such also is the consistent policy of the whole National Park System and we can not overlook the fact, from experience, that the use suggested by this bill for Yellowstone National Park, if adopted, will in practice become a dangerous precedent for similar industrial uses of other national parks.

Any plan for the commercial exploitation of the park must therefore, in my opinion, by the very nature of its aims and purposes, immediately be foredoomed to failure, and I therefore cannot recommend favorable consideration of the pending measure.

Very truly yours,

(signed) HUBERT WORK.

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

TO MOBILIZE OUT-OF-DOORS AMERICA FOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION

1512 H STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

OBJECTS

- To conserve nature and to win all America to enjoyment of it.
- To promote a National Recreational Policy under which all the publicly owned lands of the Nation shall be fully equipped for the recreational service of the people, and some of them conserved for scenic and wild life preservation.
- To protect our National Parks System from all industrial uses and to uphold its standards. It is the country's one museum system of undisturbed nature and our national gallery of scenic masterpieces.
- To promote the use of National Parks for the purposes of popular education and scientific observation.
- To aid specialist organizations in the promotion of wild bird and wild animal refuges for the better protection of American species in natural environment.
- To interest popular organizations of all kinds everywhere, scientific, educational, patriotic and civic societies, motoring, mountaineering and sportsmen's clubs, wild life and conservation organizations and the people generally in cooperation for these beneficent purposes.

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